Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBABAN 01054 290412Z ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /040 W

-----290419Z 042410 /17

R 280930Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1659
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MASERU

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SREF, WZ

SUBJECT: REFUGEE REPORT

FOLLOWING INFO ON REFUGEE SITUATION IN SWAZILAND WAS OBTAINED FROM EMBASSY MEETING APRIL 27 WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF UNDP, UNHCR, AND GOS:

1. SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEES. NUMBERS HAVE INCREASED TO ABOUT 120, ONLY 14 OF WHOM ARE GIRLS. ABOUT HALF OF 120 HAVE ARRIVED IN LAST COUPLE WEEKS. AGE RANGE REMAINS ABOUT SAME AS BEFORE, THAT IS, MOSTLY LATE TEENAGERS AND EARLY TWENTIES. RE PARA 2 MBABANE 732 (NOTAL), GOS IS RENOVATING DORMITORY SPACE IN MBABANE TO HOUSE THE GIRLS. FROM DESCRIPTION FURNISHED BY GOS REFUGEE OFFICER, DORMITORY SETUP WILL HAVE TRAPPINGS OF PRISON IN WHICH GIRLS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MBABAN 01054 290412Z

CURRENTLY HOUSED AT MATSAPHA, INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL FENCE TO BE ERECTED AROUND DORMITORY. (GOS FEELS RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH SAFETY AND MORALS OF GIRLS, WHICH WAS REASON FOR ITS DENYING CATHOLIC BISHOP'S REQUEST TO HOUSE GIRLS WITH INDIVIDUAL SWAZI FAMILIES.) MENNONITES HAVE BEGUN CONDUCTING CLASSES IN MBABANE FOR ALL OF THE GIRLS PLUS ABOUT EQUAL NUMBER OF BOYS. GOS

PROVIDES NECESSARY TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS BETWEEN CAMPS AND CLASSES.

2. PORTUGUESE/MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES. IT WAS APPARENT FROM GOS REFUGEE OFFICER (E.B.N. KHUMALO) IN APRIL 27 MEETING THAT GOS HAS NO PLANS FOR DEALING WITH POSSIBLE INFLUX OF PORTUGUESE/MOZAMBICANS. HE SAID IN MEETING THAT GOS WOULD EXPECT UNHCR TO TAKE LEAD. UNHCR REP, J. MCCALLIN (VISITING FROM GABORONE), REPLIED THAT UNHCR MAY BE POWERLESS TO HELP IF EXPELLEES ARE ENTITLED TO RETURN TO PORTUGAL. IN SUCH CASE, HE SAID, THEY WOULD NOT BE REFUGEES IN SWAZILAND BUT MERELY "DISTRESSED PERSONS." OUR GROUP WILL CONVENE AS AND WHEN NEW INFORMATION DEVELOPS FROM AMERICAN AND SWAZI EMBASSIES MAPUTO AND FROM UNHCR REP IN MAPUTO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: REPORTS, REFUGEES

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 28-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MBABAN01054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770149-0824 Format: TEL

From: MBABANE Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770410/aaaaahtn.tel Line Count: 78

Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d0dfb39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION ORM

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2659595 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

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27 WITH REPRES TAGS: SREF, WZ, SF, MZ

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d0dfb39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released **US** Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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